

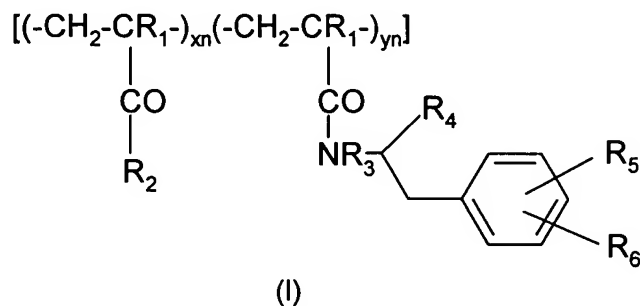
Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as set forth hereinafter.

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) Polyacrylamide conjugate of the general formula I,



wherein

R<sub>1</sub> denotes hydrogen or methyl,

R<sub>2</sub> denotes N(R<sub>7</sub>R<sub>8</sub>) or OH,

R<sub>3</sub> denotes a hydrogen, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl or C<sub>3-6</sub> cycloalkyl,

R<sub>4</sub> denotes H or COO<sup>-</sup>M<sup>+</sup>,

R<sub>5</sub>, R<sub>6</sub> denote, in each case independently of one another a hydrogen, SO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>M<sup>+</sup> or OSO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>M<sup>+</sup>,

$R_7, R_8$  denote, in each case independently of one another, hydrogen,  $C_{1-6}$  alcohol,  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl, phenyl, benzyl, phenethyl or  $N(R_7R_8)$  denotes a  $N(CH_2)_{2-6}$  ring that may also be substituted,

$n$  is 20 to 500,

$y$  is from 0.2 to 1.0,

$x$  is  $1 - y$ ,

$M^+$  is a physiologically acceptable monovalent cation  $[[.]]$ .

and their diastereomers or enantiomers in the form of their acids or salts of physiologically compatible bases.

2.(Original) Polyacrylamide conjugate of claim 1, characterized in that  $R_1$  denotes hydrogen.

3.(Currently Amended) Polyacrylamide conjugate of claim 1 or 2, characterized in that  $R_2$  denotes  $N(R_7R_8)$ .

4. (Currently Amended) Polyacrylamide conjugate ~~according to any of claims 1 to 3~~ of claim 1, characterized in that  $R_3$  denotes hydrogen.

5. (Currently Amended) Polyacrylamide conjugate ~~according to any of claims 1 to 4~~ of claim 1, characterized in that  $R_4$  denotes  $COO^-M^+$ .

6. (Currently Amended) Polyacrylamide conjugate ~~according to any of claims 1 to 5~~ of claim 1, characterized in that  $R_6$  is hydrogen and  $R_5$  is  $\text{SO}_3^-\text{M}^+$  or  $\text{OSO}_3^-\text{M}^+$  in the meta or para position, preferably in the para position, most preferably  $R_5$  is  $\text{OSO}_3^-\text{M}^+$  in the para position.
7. (Currently Amended) Polyacrylamide conjugate ~~according to any of claims 1 to 5~~ of claim 1, characterized in that  $R_5$  and  $R_6$  both denote hydrogen.
8. (Currently Amended) Polyacrylamide conjugate ~~according to any of claims 1 to 7~~ of claim 1, characterized in that  $R_7$  is hydrogen and  $R_8$  is a  $\text{C}_{1-6}$  alcohol, preferably a  $\text{C}_{1-4}$  alcohol, most preferably ethyl alcohol.
9. (Currently Amended) Polyacrylamide conjugate ~~according to any of claims 1 to 8~~ of claim 1, characterized in that the counterion  $\text{M}^+$  is selected from the group of  $\text{Na}^+$ ,  $\text{K}^+$ ,  $\text{NH}_4^+$ ,  $\text{Et}_3\text{NH}^+$ ,  $\text{HO}(\text{CH}_2)\text{NH}_3^+$ .
10. (Currently Amended) Polyacrylamide conjugate ~~according to any of claims 1 to 9~~ of claim 1, characterized in that  $n$  is 20 to 400, preferably 20 to 300, more preferably 20 to 100, most preferably about 20 to 80.
11. (Currently Amended) Polyacrylamide conjugate ~~according to any of claims 1 to 10~~ of claim 1, characterized in that  $y$  is 0.2 to 0.8, preferably 0.3 to 0.6, more preferably 0.3 to 0.5, most preferably 0.35 to 0.45.
12. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of a polyacrylamide conjugate according to any of claims 1 to 11~~ Method for inhibiting P-selectin *in vitro* comprising administering the polyacrylamide conjugate of claim 1 to a cell in a P-selectin inhibiting effective amount.
13. (Currently Amended) ~~A method~~ Method for protecting endothelial cells from complement-mediated cytotoxicity comprising ~~the addition of~~ administering a polyacrylamide conjugate ~~according to any of claims 1 to 11~~ of claim 1 to said cells *in vitro*.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~Polyacrylamide~~ A pharmaceutical composition comprising the polyacrylamide conjugate of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or excipient according to any of claims 1 to 11 for use as a medicament.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of a polyacrylamide conjugate according to any of claims 1 to 11 for the preparation of a medicament~~ Method for protecting endothelial cells from complement-mediated cytotoxicity comprising administering to said endothelial cells the polyacrylamide conjugate of claim 1 in a complement-mediated cytotoxicity protecting amount.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of a polyacrylamide conjugate according to any of claims 1 to 11 for the preparation of a medicament~~ Method for the prevention and/or treatment of preventing and/or treating inflammatory reactions towards endothelial cells, preferably endothelial cells involved in arteriosclerosis or chronic heart failure comprising administering to an animal in need thereof the polyacrylamide conjugate of claim 1 in an inflammatory reactions towards endothelial cells preventing and/or treating amount.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of a polyacrylamide conjugate according to any of claims 1 to 11 for the preparation of a medicament~~ Method for preventing ischemia/reperfusion damage comprising administering to an animal in need thereof the polyacrylamide conjugate of claim 1 in an ischemia/reperfusion damage preventing amount.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of a polyacrylamide conjugate according to any of claims 1 to 11 for the preparation of a medicament~~ Method for the treatment of cardiac or brain infarction comprising administering to an animal in need thereof the polyacrylamide conjugate of claim 1 in a cardiac or brain infarction treating amount.

19. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of a polyacrylamide conjugate according to any of claims 1 to 11 for the preparation of a medicament~~ Method for preventing damage to organs during surgery-related ischemia comprising administering to an animal in need thereof the polyacrylamide conjugate of claim 1 in a damage to organs during surgery-related ischemia preventing amount.

20. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of a polyacrylamide conjugate according to any of claims 1 to 11 for the preparation of a medicament~~ Method for preventing acute vascular rejection reactions comprising administering to an animal in need thereof the polyacrylamide conjugate of claim 1 in an acute vascular rejection reaction preventing amount.

21. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of a polyacrylamide conjugate according to any of claims 1 to 11 for the preparation of a medicament~~ Method for preventing acute a vascular rejection reactions reaction in ABO-incompatible transplantation or xenotransplantation comprising administering to an animal in need thereof the polyacrylamide conjugate of claim 1 in an acute vascular rejection reaction preventing amount.

22. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of a polyacrylamide conjugate according to any of claims 1 to 11 for the preparation of solutions~~ Method for safe-keeping-of life donor organs for use in transplants comprising  
providing a solution comprising the polyacrylamide conjugate of claim 1, and  
adding a life donor organ to said solution.

23. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of a polyacrylamide conjugate according to any of claims 1 to 11 for the preparation of a medicament for use in~~ Method for preventing a rejection reaction during allogeneic and xenogeneic islet transplantation comprising administering to an animal in need thereof the polyacrylamide conjugate of claim 1 in a rejection reaction during allogeneic or xenogeneic islet transplantation preventing amount.

24. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of a polyacrylamide conjugate according to any of claims 1 to 11 for the preparation of a medicament for use in the prevention and/or treatment of~~ Method for preventing an/or treating an HIV infection comprising administering to an animal in need thereof the polyacrylamide conjugate of claim 1 in an HIV infection preventing and/or treating amount.

25. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of a polyacrylamide conjugate according to any of claims 1 to 11 for the preparation of a medicament for use in the prevention and/or treatment of~~ Method for preventing and/or treating severe sepsis, acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS), or septic

shock comprising administering to an animal in need thereof the polyacrylamide conjugate of claim 1 in a severe sepsis or septic shock preventing and/or treating amount.

26. (New) Method for preventing and/or treating acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) comprising administering to an animal in need thereof the polyacrylamide conjugate of claim 1 in an acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) preventing and/or treating amount.